SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM : That is also one of the suggestions under consideration.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I agree with the Minister that restraint has to be maintained to ensure the privileges and rights of the three independent pillars of the Constitution and surely a consensus has to be arrived at through an all-party meeting. But, Sir, apart from the areas covered by the anti-defection law, confrontation is also arising between two of these pillars, the judiciary and the legislature, on the privileges of not only citizens but also certain other States. We have been that there is the fourth estate and now the greatest confrontation has come between the judiciary and the legislature over the rights and privileges of the fourth estate, that is in connection with Tamil Nadu. Now the situation has assumed alarming proportions. Even though the Minister is not inclined to tell about the timeframe urgency is necessary because the parties which are involved in it are friendly to each other, particularly that party is a friendly party of the ruling party.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Put your question. Everybody is friendly here, anyway.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : So, before the confrontation assumes greater proportions, may I know what steps the Government is going to take to defuse the situation ?

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM : Sir, the hon. Member has rightly put it that the issue that is arising now deals with the fourth estate claiming the freedom of speech, the right to print, vis-a-vis, the right of the House to say that what is expunged should not be printed. It is really one of the major issues which is on. The confrontation, of course, has nothing to do whether 'A' party is friendly or not. Mr. Dipen Ghosh's party is also very friendly to us. I do not say that they are animus to us (*Interruptions*). How can I say that my uncle's party is animus to us, that is a bit too much to say like that.

It is a very serious matter, it deals with the State Assembly and it is all important. We are definitely taking steps. I do not want to say what steps we are trying to take. The Minister of law would be talking to the Speaker about it to find out what steps the Government should take to bring about a consensus.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next Question.

People's Participation in Planning and Development During Eighth Five Year Plan Period

185. SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) what are the objectives laid down in the Eighth Five Year Plan to make the people's participation in planning and development a reality; and

(b) what are the schemes for creating voluntary agencies and to enthuse the common man towards planning; whether Government have prepared a blue print in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(a) In the Eighth Plan people's initiative and participation will be a key element in the process of development. The role of Government will be reoriented so as to bring about greater involvement of the people in the planning and implementation of various programmes and scheme. The existing institutions like cooperatives, Panchayati Raj Institutions and Voluntary Organisations some of which have become relatively weak would be revitalised and given greater support for undertaking developmental work particularly in the rural areas. In other words the genuine push towards decentralisation with active participation of people will be ensured.

(b) In the Eighth Plan a greater emphasis will be placed on voluntary organisations in developmental activities. The details will be incorporated in the Eighth Plan which is being finalised.

SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI: Sir, the success of the Planning Commission process depends on the people's participation and that is why Gandhiji thought of the gram swaraja and the father of India's planning process, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who himself drafted the First Plan document, emphasized on creating land army and labour cooperatives. Will the hon. Minister give us some concrete projects in which people's participation is envisaged? Are the institutions which are thought of at the time of the First Five Year Plan still relevant with you or with the Planning Commission?

SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ: Sir, there is no doubt that we must involve the people in any movement, and the planning process is a very important movement. In the Eighth Five-Year Plan there is a three-tier arrangement in which the local self-government institutions like Zila Parishads, Panchayat Samitis and Gram Panchayats will be involved firstly and, secondly, the cooperative institutions will be involved. Thirdly, the voluntary organizations have been playing a very important role in the field of rural development, anti-poverty programmes, training of rural youth, promotion of safe drinking water, rural housing and so on. Many areas are there and I hope that an integrated approach of all these institutions in the planning process will strengthen planning in the country. A task force was instituted and it has gone into the areas where the voluntary organizations will be required to work. Already, the CAPART is one of the agencies which coordinates the working of several programmes like the Jawahar Rojgar Yojana and other rural development programmes.

SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI: Sir, all these activities which the Minister has read out are mentioned in his statement. But as planning is a continuous process, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the ideal concept of Community Development and National Extension Programme and planning from the village level are still relevant and what they really think, honestly think, about it.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Sir, if you will kindly look at the provisions about the Panchayati Raj institutions in the Bill which is pending, our late leader, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, had gone through this issue and he had given a complete solution for the problems in the rural areas. If you look at the draft Bill which is pending before the Joint Select Committee, if that is passed, I think the process of decentralization will be there. Without these Panchayati Raj institutions working, even the voluntary organizations will not be able to make much dent. So it is high time that we pass the Bill and introduce its working immediately.

SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Sir, in view of the fact that the Government has admitted that the Panchayati Raj institutions have become vague, which is an admission of the fact that these institutions are becoming sick, I would like to know whether the Government is contemplating to review the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission to give more powers to the States and strengthen Centre-State relations with a view to involving people in all these institutions.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Sir, on the Centre-State relations on the planning process, we have already referred that Bill to the Joint Select Committee and we have already offloaded certain schemes to the States. So there is an awareness that the role is to beplayed by the States and the local self-government should be more now.

श्री चिठ्ठलराव माधवराव जाधव: सभापति महोदय, मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि पिछले कई साल राजीव जी ने जो पंचायती राज और कोआपरेटिव मूवमेंट का सम्मेलन बुलाया था और प्लानिंग जो है रूट लैवल से शुरु होने के बारे में मार्ग-दर्शन दिया था, मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि मंत्री महोदय जब यह आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना फाईनल करने जा रहे हैं। तो क्या ग्रामीण क्षेत्र के पंचायती राज कोआपरेटिव मूवमेंट या अन्य जो प्रोग्रेस के काम हैं और जो कार्यकर्ता उसमें लगे हुए हैं उनसे विचार-विनियम करके यह निर्णय लेने जा रहे हैं? अगर ऐसा विचार-विनियम करके

निर्णय लेते तो हमारे देश से पावर्टी समाप्त हो जाएगी। तो वह कौन सा प्रोसैस एडाप्ट कर रहे हैं पीपुल्स पार्टिसिपेशन का, यह मैं जानना चाहता हूं ?

SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ: Sir, there is a clear-cut policy to immediately start the process of passing the Panchayati Raj Bill. Secondly, we have to develop a national grid for developing the voluntary organizations and monitor their working for the emancipation of the rural poor. Then, the cooperative movement has to be strengthened. This is the thrust of the implementation of the Eighth Plan. This is going to the NDC very shortly and we will implement this.

SHRI M. PALANIYANDI: Sir, they have omitted the elected members of the Legislature for participation in the implementation of the programme. In the poverty alleviation programmes also they are not taking the members of the legislature as well as Members of Parliament. I want to know whether the Government would come forward to associate them also with the implementation of these programmes.

SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ: Definitely, Sir, the elected representatives will have to be given their due say in the planning process.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Declining Percentage of Per Capita Income in Rajasthan

*181. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the percentage of per capita income of Rajasthan is declining in comparison to national average; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Recommendation of the Standing Committee of the SAARC Countries

*186. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Standing Committee of the SAARC has recommended consultations with the ASEAN, E. C. and ADB before the next SAARC Summit;

(b) whether it is also a fact that it had suggested U.N. Cooperation in SAARC projects in core economic areas; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government of India holds the view that cooperation between SAARC and external organisations should be based on SAARC's own initiatives and requirements.

Diplomatic Missions without Heads

*187. SHRI SOM PAL:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several of our diplomatic missions abroad have been without full-fledged Heads for quite some time;

(b) if so, what is the list of such missions and for how long these have been without a proper Head; and

(c) what are the reasons therefor and what steps Government propose to take in this regard ?